The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising a computer system operable to:

receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to ~~an offer variable~~ one of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and comprising a range of values of ~~the~~ that offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space uniquely corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers; and

a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing ~~an offer~~ one of the offers and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables ~~for the~~ specified in that offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for the associated offer.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the display comprises a plurality of arrows each associated with ~~an icon~~ one of the geometrically-shaped icons and representing the movement of the geometrically-shaped icon from a first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time interval.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computer system is operable to update the positions of the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the display is three-dimensional and the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable for which values are specified in the offers.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are polyhedrons.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computer system is operable to:

access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables; and

generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, where the computer system is operable to:

receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;

receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and

communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the computer system is operable to display the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of providing visualization of market offers, comprising:

receiving offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

generating a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to ~~an offer variable~~ one of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and comprising a range of values of ~~the~~ that offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space uniquely corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers; and

a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing ~~an offer~~ one of the offers and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables ~~for the~~ specified in that offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for the associated offer.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the display comprises a plurality of arrows each associated with ~~an icon~~ one of the geometrically-shaped icons and representing the movement of the geometrically-shaped icon from a first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time interval.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising updating the positions of the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein the display is three-dimensional and the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable for which values are specified in the offers.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are polyhedrons.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

accessing a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables; and

generating within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;

receiving an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generating an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and

communicating the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising displaying the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

21. (Currently Amended) Software for providing visualization of market offers, the software being embodied in computer-readable media and when executed operable to:

receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to ~~an offer variable~~ one of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and comprising a range of values of ~~the~~ that offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space uniquely corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers; and

a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing ~~an offer~~ one of the offers and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables ~~for the~~ specified in that offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

22. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein each geometrically-shaped icon is sized to represent a package size for the associated offer, the package size indicating a quantity of items that may be exchanged in a single transaction or as a single unit for the associated offer.

23. (Currently Amended) The software of Claim 21, wherein the display comprises a plurality of arrows each associated with ~~an icon~~ one of the geometrically-shaped icons and representing the movement of the geometrically-shaped icon from a first position within the display to a second position within the display over a time interval.

24. (Original) The software of Claim 21, operable to update the positions of the icons within the display in substantially real time as market conditions change.

25. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the user is a buyer and the offers comprise asks only from sellers on an approved vendor list (AVL).

26. (Currently Amended) The software of Claim 21, wherein the display is three-dimensional and the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and corresponding to the dimensions comprise price, quantity, and at least one additional offer variable for which values are specified in the offers.

27. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the geometrically-shaped icons are polyhedrons.

28. (Original) The software of Claim 21, operable to:

access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables; and

generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

29. (Original) The software of Claim 28, operable to:

receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;

receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and

communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.

30. (Original) The software of Claim 29, operable to display the values specified in the user request and the values specified in the offer associated with the selected icon to allow the user to compare these values before providing an instruction to generate an order.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising:

means for receiving offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables; and

means for generating a display of the offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to ~~an offer variable~~ one of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and comprising a range of values of ~~the~~ that offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space uniquely corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers; and

a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing ~~an offer~~ one of the offers and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables ~~for the~~ specified in that offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision.

32. (Currently Amended) A system for providing visualization of market offers, comprising a computer system operable to:

receive offer data for a plurality of offers, the received offer data reflecting values specified in the offers for a plurality of offer variables;

generate a display of the received offer data, the display comprising:

a plurality of dimensions each corresponding to ~~an offer variable~~ one of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers and comprising a range of values of ~~the~~ that offer variable, the dimensions defining a multi-dimensional space, each position within the multi-dimensional space uniquely corresponding to a set of values of the offer variables for which values are specified in the offers; and

a plurality of geometrically-shaped icons, each icon representing ~~an offer~~ one of the offers and being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the values of the offer variables ~~for the~~ specified in that offer, the different positions of the offers within the display allowing a user to readily visually compare the offers in connection with a market decision;

access a user request, the request comprising a plurality of entered values for a plurality of offer variables;

generate within the display a geometrically-shaped icon representing the user request, the icon for the request being positioned with respect to the dimensions of the display according to the entered values of the offer variables for the request, such that the user may compare the icon for the user request with the icons for one or more offers in connection with a market decision.

receive a selection of a particular icon associated with a particular offer;

receive an instruction to generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon;

in response to receiving the instruction, automatically generate an order based on the values for the offer associated with the selected icon; and

communicate the generated order for matching with the selected offer.